doi:10.1351/goldbook.D01572

degrees of freedom, ν

A statistical quantity indicating the number of values which could be arbitrarily assigned within the specification of a system of observations. For simple replication, with n measurements and one estimated parameter (the mean), $\nu = n - 1$. More generally, for multivariable computations, the number of degrees of freedom equals the number of observations minus the number of fitted parameters.

Source:
PAC, 1994, *66*, 595 *(Nomenclature for the presentation of results of chemical analysis (IUPAC Recommendations 1994))* on page 599

